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CIA agents exposed in Nicaragua

Special to the Guardian via APIA

Managua.

Nicaraguans are developing a sophisticated understanding of the many forms of subversion by the U.S. CIA, thanks to educational efforts by two former agents and a filmmaker.

Ex-CIA agents Richard Martinez and Philip Agee, and Alan Francovich, maker of the film "On Company Business," traveled throughout Nicaragua last month to talk about how the CIA is working to defeat the Nicaraguan revolution. Unity, they stressed, is the key to frustrating these efforts.

On Nov. 5, meanwhile, a West German journalist revealed the names of 255 CIA agents who have worked in Central America and the Caribbean in recent years, among them 13 officials currently stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Managua. An embassy political officer was named as the chief of station. The names were released in a San Jose, Costa Rica news conference by Gunter Nueberger, author of a forthcoming book "Dirty Work in Latin America."

Managua newspapers, including *El Nuevo Diario*, prominently reported the author's allegations, prompting a formal protest by the U.S., which termed the disclosure "an act of provocation."

During their tour not identify CIA agents were about a dozen that the Nicaraguans knew who they were that at least one of the Free Labor Developmentatives is a conscientious

Martinez, a Mexican, worked as a CIA and AIFLD from Brazil. He appears in a montage of old newsletters and interviews with past and present CIA officials and others with knowledge of the agency's activities.

Of the film, Francovich said he wanted to "show how important the internal front is; that an invasion could not succeed without manipulating the internal situation." The film played on television and in many theaters here, followed by discussions or telephone call-ins in which Francovich and Martinez were asked about CIA tactics.

Shortly after the Francovich-Martinez tour, Agee arrived. Agee is author of the book "Inside the Company," detailing his 10 years of CIA work in Latin America.

At the end of his 3-week visit, Agee said he was encouraged by the Nicaraguans' level of consciousness of the dangers they face, and by the high state of readiness of the Sandinista army and the people's militia (see story this page). He pointed out that U.S. policy toward Nicaragua was closely linked to developments in El Salvador and that there was still a lot Washington could do short of an actual invasion. L.B.